

In the Claims:

Amend claims 1 and 6; and delete claims 4, 7-14, 16, and 19-20, without prejudice.

1. (Currently Amended) A stencil sheet comprising a sheet having a large number of minute perforations, said minute perforations being filled with the following resin (A), (B), or (C) as filler:

- (A) a resin having a melting point lower than that of said sheet,
- (B) a resin which is soluble in a solvent,
- (C) a heat adhesive resin,

wherein said minute perforations in said sheet are trapezoidal in vertical cross section and are arranged such that the diameter of the space defined by each of said perforations for transferring ink onto an object to be printed is smaller toward the object to be printed.

2. (Original) The stencil sheet according to claim 1 wherein said sheet is a film of a synthetic resin.

3. (Previously Presented) The stencil sheet according to claim 1 wherein the area fraction of the opening portions of said minute perforations is in the range of 20 to 70 % and the diameters of equivalent circles are in the range of 5 to 200 μm when the opening portions are assumed to be circular in shape.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The stencil sheet according to claim 1 wherein the thickness of said sheet is in the range of 1.5 to 20 μm .

6. (Currently Amended) The stencil sheet according to claim 1 wherein said stencil sheet further comprises a porous support laminated on one side of said sheet, said sheet having a large number of minute perforations, said one side bearing perforation openings of larger diameter as compared with those on the other side of said sheet.

Claims 7-14 (Canceled)

15. (Original) The stencil sheet according to claim 2 wherein the area fraction of the opening portions of said minute perforations is in the range of 20 to 70 % and the diameters of equivalent circles are in the range of 5 to 200 μm when the opening portions are assumed to be circular in shape.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) The stencil sheet according to claim 2 wherein the thickness of said sheet is in the range of 1.5 to 20 μm .

18. (Original) The stencil sheet according to claim 2 wherein said stencil sheet further comprises a porous support laminated on one side of said sheet.

Claims 19 and 20 (Canceled)